



The RATS.

**T**HE Rats one day in council sat,  
On ways and means to 'scape the Cat;  
Who oft by sudden courtes slew  
The best and bravest of their crew.  
In this debate an able sage  
Rose up---(they all rever'd his age)

And

And all in solemn silence sat,  
Expecting a most learn'd debate.  
Q'oth he,---*If we this rule pursue,*  
*Peace will attend on me and you,*  
*Let us this fierce Grimalkin deck,*  
*With bell and ribbon round her neck.*  
Th' applause he gain'd was large and loud,  
This rule was swallow'd by the crowd;  
But one sly rogue with silver beard,  
Arose and beg'd he might be heard.  
'Thy sense, says he, my learned friend,  
'Each honest patriot must commend;  
'The scheme is good, if you can tell,  
'What Rat will fasten on the bell.'

*Projects with ease men may devise,*  
*The plague in the performance lies.*



I 3

The